What is claimed is:

1. A method for redeeming coupons, comprising:

identifying products, including at least first, second and third products being

purchased, at a purchasing outlet, said first and second products being produced by first and

second product providers, respectively;

5   reading firstly a first coupon from a first customer at the purchasing outlet;

determining, at the purchasing outlet, that said first coupon is to be redeemed;

modifying, at the purchasing outlet, said first coupon after said determining step for

said first coupon, wherein said determining step cannot again be conducted for said first

coupon after said modifying step because of one or more modifications made to said first

10   coupon during said modifying step;

providing said first coupon, after said modifying step, in a first container;

reading secondly a second coupon from the first customer at the purchasing outlet,

wherein said second coupon is the next coupon read after said first coupon;

making a determination related to whether said second coupon is to be redeemed after

15   said reading secondly step;

storing, after said making step, said second coupon in a second container, different

from said first container;

reading a third coupon at the purchasing outlet;

ascertaining that said third coupon is to be rejected;

20   deciding not to reject said third coupon; and

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locating said third coupon in a third container, different from said first and second containers;

reimbursing firstly for said first coupon;

reimbursing secondly for said second coupon at a time different from said reimbursing firstly step, wherein each of said reimbursing firstly and said reimbursing secondly steps is made by a third party different from the first and second providers of the first and second products associated with said first and second coupons, respectively.

2.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

recording transaction information related to said third coupon;

retrieving said third coupon from said third container; and

checking whether reimbursement is to be made for said third coupon.

3.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption during a particular time.

4.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

removing said third coupon from said third container;

obtaining information from said third coupon using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the purchasing outlet; and

5   using said information in determining whether to reimburse for said third coupon.

5.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said identifying step is conducted using a product reader device and each of said

reading firstly and secondly steps is conducted using a coupon reader device.

6.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said reimbursing firstly step is made to an entity associated with the purchasing outlet

within about one day after said providing step and said reimbursing secondly step is made

to the entity more than one day after said storing step.

7.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first container includes a modified coupon lock box unit, said second container

includes an audit coupon lock box unit and said third container includes a rejected coupon

lock box unit.

8.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

reimbursing the third party service provider by the first product provider after said

reimbursing firstly step.

9.   The method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

removing said third coupon from said third container and taking said third coupon

to a coupon redemption subsystem that includes an auxiliary coupon reader device that reads

said third coupon.

10.   A system for redeeming coupons, comprising:

a device that reads a first coupon, a second coupon, and a third coupon, wherein at

least said first and second coupons are from a first customer and said second coupon is read

next after said first coupon;

5   processing apparatus in operative communication with said device, said processing

apparatus determining that said first coupon is to be redeemed and modified, determining

that said second coupon is to be redeemed and audited, and determining that said third

coupon is to be rejected;

a first storage unit that stores said first coupon;

10   a second storage unit that stores said second coupon;

a third storage unit that stores said third coupon, wherein said device, said processing

apparatus, and each of said first, second and third storage units are located at purchasing

outlet at which said first, second, and third coupons are presented for redemption; and

means for issuing payment related to reimbursement for redemption of said first

15   coupon and said second coupon, said means for issuing payment being operated to reimburse

for said second coupon at a time different from being operated to reimburse for said first

coupon.

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11.   A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to said second coupon including an identity of the purchasing outlet, an identity of a purchasing outlet lane at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption, and a time at which said second coupon was submitted for redemption.

12.   An apparatus, as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

said device is a coupon reader device and the system further includes a product reader device different from said coupon reader device.

13.   A system, as claimed in claim 10, further including:

a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a processor that receives information obtained by said processing apparatus related to said third coupon.

14.   A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said means for issuing payment includes at least one of a check writer and a wire transfer to an account.